ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #19

SEINE FISHERIES: Aerial surveys of the Eastern, Northern and Southeastern districts are ongoing. Early season indicators of wild stock chum and pink salmon run entry and escapement in the Northern, Eastern, and Southeastern districts do not support a wild stock fishery at this time. VFDA is in the process of conducting cost recovery for pink salmon in Port Valdez. VFDA reports that pink salmon harvest on Thursday, July 5 was approximately 91,897 fish with an average weight of approximately 4.7 pounds per fish and 35% female. Cumulative VFDA cost recovery is 2.24 million pounds through July 5, or 51% of a final goal of 4.4 million pounds. Time and area for the next commercial fishing period will be based on cost recovery progress.

The next scheduled seine and gillnet salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 7.

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

Announcement recordings are available for gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345. In addition, announcement recordings are available in Anchorage at 267-2843.

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web addresses:

<u>http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.main</u> (Copper River homepage) or http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main (Prince William Sound homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure that they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.